

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 13258 061404Z

47

ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 DODE-00 TRSE-00 IGA-01 MC-01

CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02

OMB-01 L-01 AID-05 (ISO) W
----- 013178

P R 061318Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1762

INFO USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 13258

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, ET, US

SUBJ: MEETING WITH GENERAL AMAN ON MILITARY
ASSISTANCE

REFS: SECTO 380
STATE 242468

1. I CALLED ON GENERAL AMAN EVENING OF NOVEMBER 5 TO DELIVER THE SECRETARY'S PERSONAL MESSAGE REGARDING MILITARY ASSISTANCE. ALSO PRESENT WERE MOFA MINISTER OF STATE ARAYA, MOD VICE MINISTER KIFLE WORKU, MINISTER DEMISSIE TEFERA AND TWO NOTE-TAKING AIDES. AFTER EXPLAINING THAT THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE HAD BEEN CABLED IN ORDER TO SAVE TIME, I GAVE HIS MESSAGE TO GENERAL AMAN. AFTER READING IT HE RESPONDED WITH ONLY A FEW SENTENCES. THEIR GIST WAS THAT HE APPRECIATED THE SECRETARY'S REPLY AND THAT IT WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO A STRENGTHENING OF RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I THEN SUGGESTED THAT DETAILS REGARDING THE UTILIZATION OF THE 8.3 MILLION DOLLARS COULD BE DISCUSSED BETWEEN ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS AND MAAG.

2. COMMENT. GENERAL AMAN'S ATTITUDE WAS CORDIAL BUT CAUTIOUS AND RESERVED. THIS MAY HAVE BEEN DUE TO A
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 13258 061404Z

DESIRE TO AVOID EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION OF THE MILITARY

ASSISTANCE ISSUE UNTIL HE HAD DISCUSSED MORE FULLY WITH HIS COLLEAGUES THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE SECRETARY'S MESSAGE. IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT WE WILL OBTAIN A MORE REVEALING PICTURE OF HIS REACTION AND THAT OF THE AFCC DIRECTLY FROM HIM OR FROM OTHER SOURCES IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

3. ACTION REQUESTED. WE WILL PROBABLY BE ASKED VERY SOON WHAT TERMS OF CREDIT ARE ENVISAGED FOR THE 8.3 MILLION DOLLARS. THIS ISSUE SHOULD OBVIOUSLY BE RESOLVED ASAP TO AVOID FRUSTRATION AND FRICTION HERE. PLEASE PROVIDE GUIDANCE SOONEST. AS THE LARGEST OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND ONE AFFLICTED BY SERIOUS DROUGHT PROBLEMS, ETHIOPIA APPEARS TO HAVE STRONGEST POSSIBLE CASE FOR CONCESSIONARY TERMS.

4. TURNING TO GENERAL AMAN'S PREVIOUS REQUEST FOR AN INCREASE IN THE MAAG ADVISORY EFFORT, I SAID WE HAD RECEIVED WORD FROM WASHINGTON WHICH WOULD PERMIT AN INCREASE IN THE MAAG ADVISORY EFFORT IN THE OGADEN AND ERITREA FOR PERIOD FROM NOW UNTIL MIDDLE OF 1976. I WARNED GENERAL AMAN THAT THE ADVISORY TEAMS WOULD NOT INVOLVE LARGE NUMBERS OF PEOPLE, BUT THAT THERE WOULD BE INCREASES INVOLVING BOTH PERMANENT TEAMS IN PLACE AND A MOBILE TEAM OF SPECIALISTS OPERATING OUT OF ADDIS WHICH COULD ADDRESS PARTICULAR PROBLEM AREAS. I EMPHASIZED THAT THIS ACTION STOOD IN STRONG CONTRAST WITH MAAG REDUCTIONS TAKING PLACE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD AND THAT IT WAS UNDERTAKEN IN DIRECT RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST AS A DEMONSTRATION OF US INTEREST IN AND SUPPORT FOR ETHIOPIA. GENERAL AMAN NODDED IN APPARENT SATISFACTION BUT DID NOT COMMENT.

5. COMMENT. THE INCREASE IN THE ADVISORY SUPPORT IN THE FIELD WILL BE MADE POSSIBLE BY SOME CHANGES OF PERSONNEL AND A CONSIDERABLE SHIFT OF ASSIGNMENTS WITHIN THE MAAG COMPLEMENT AUTHORIZED AT BEGINNING OF FY-75 (79). I DID NOT DISCUSS WITH GENERAL AMAN THE TOTAL SIZE OF THE MAAG COMPLEMENT OR THE NUMBER OF ADVISORS WHO WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR DUTY IN THE FIELD.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 13258 061404Z

6. I THEN DISCUSSED WITH GENERAL AMAN PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH DROUGHT RELIEF ASSISTANCE, THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR LOAN, AND THE TURNOVER OF KAGNEW TRACT E. OUR CONVERSATION ON THE FORMER TWO SUBJECTS WILL BE MENTIONED IN SUBSEQUENT TELEGRAMS.

7. AT THE END OF THE MEETING GENERAL AMAN SAID HE THOUGHT OUR CONVERSATION HAD BEEN MOST USEFUL AND THAT

HE WISHED TO ASSURE ME OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S DESIRE TO
STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH THE US. I REPLIED THAT MY
GOVERNMENT WAS ANXIOUS TO ASSIST AND COOPERATE WITH HIS
GOVERNMENT.
WYMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, CREDIT, FINANCIAL DATA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ADDIS13258
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740319-0428
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741168/aaaacfnf.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SECTO 380
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <11 MAR 2003 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEETING WITH GENERAL AMAN ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE
TAGS: MASS, PFOR, ET, US, (AMAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005